Serial No. 07/388,156 filed July 28, 1989, which issued September 13, 1994 as U.S. Patent No. 5,347,632. Application Serial No. 07/388,156 is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 07/328,790 filed March 23, 1989, now abandoned. Application Serial No. 07/328,790 is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 07/219,931 filed July 15, 1988, now abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new Claims 33 to 72.

33. (new)   A method for generating information related to a product, the method comprising the steps of:

storing and maintaining variable data and constant data related to at least one product and a main revision status in a memory of a main computer, the main revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the main computer;

storing constant data related to the at least one product and a remote revision status in a memory of a remote computer, the constant data being a subset of information data related to the at least one product, the remote revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the remote computer;

transmitting the remote revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;

comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status;

updating constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer with constant data maintained in the memory of the main computer that is different from the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer;

transmitting variable data related to the at least one product from the main computer to the remote computer; and

integrating constant data related to the at least one product with the variable data related to the at least one product in the remote computer to generate the information data related to the at least one product including both constant data and variable data.

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34. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of selecting a product from the memory of the remote computer for which product information is desired prior to the step of transmitting the remote revision status from the remote computer to the main computer.

35. (new)   The method of claim 34, further comprising the step of automatically connecting the remote computer to the main computer after the selecting step.

36. (new)   The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of automatically disconnecting the remote computer from the main computer after the variable data related to the selected product is transmitted from the main computer to the remote computer.

37. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of displaying the information related to the product generated by the remote computer during the integrating step.

38. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of printing the information related to the product generated by the remote computer during the integrating step.

39. (new)   The method of claim 33, wherein the constant data stored in the memory of the main computer and the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer includes both graphics data and textual data.

40. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of transmitting a request for variable data related to the a selected product from the remote computer to the main computer prior to the step of transmitting variable data from the main computer to the remote computer.

41. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of transmitting a map from the main computer to the remote computer along with the variable data to permit the remote computer to perform the integrating step.

42. (new)   The method of claim 33, wherein the constant data updating step includes the steps of:

determining updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer that are different than the constant data stored in the remote computer;

transmitting the updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer from the main computer to the remote computer; and

replacing portions of the constant data stored on the remote computer with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer.

43. (new)   The method of claim 42, wherein the updating step further includes the step of transmitting a new remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

44. (new)   The method of claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

storing a program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer;

maintaining the latest revisions of the program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the main computer;

transmitting the remote program revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;

comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status; and

updating portions of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer that are different from the program stored and maintained in the memory of the main computer.

45. (new)   The method of claim 44, wherein the program updating step includes the steps of:

determining updated portions of the program stored in the main computer that are different from the program stored in the remote computer;

transmitting the updated portions from the main computer to the remote computer; and

replacing portions of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer with the updated portions received from the main computer.

46. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the remote program revision status is transmitted to the main computer each time a communication session is initiated between the remote computer and the main computer.

47. (new) A method for producing information related to a selected product on a remote computer, the method comprising the steps of:

storing and maintaining variable data and constant data related to a plurality of products in a memory of a main computer;

storing constant data related to a plurality of products in a memory of a remote computer, the constant data being a subset of product information data related to the plurality of products;

selecting a product from the remote computer memory for which product information is desired;

comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer;

updating constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data stored in the memory of the main computer that is different from the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer;

transmitting variable data related to the selected product from the main computer to the remote computer; and

integrating constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer associated with the selected product with the variable data received from the main computer to provide the product information data related to the selected product including both constant and variable data.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of automatically connecting the remote computer to the main computer after the selecting step.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, further comprising the step of automatically disconnecting the remote computer from the main computer after the variable data related to the selected product is transmitted from the main computer to the remote computer.

50. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of displaying the information related to the product generated by the remote computer during the integrating step.

51. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of printing the information related to the product generated by the remote computer during the integrating step.

52. (new)   The method of claim 47, wherein the constant data stored in the memory of the main computer and the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer includes both graphics data and textual data.

53. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

storing and maintaining a main revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main revision status indicating the last time the constant data stored in the main computer was revised; and

storing a remote revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote revision status indicating the last time the constant data stored in the remote computer was revised.

54. (new)   The method of claim 53, wherein the step of comparing constant data in the memory of the remote computer with constant data in the memory of the main computer includes the step of comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status maintained in the main computer.

55. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of transmitting a request for variable data related to a selected product from the remote computer to the main computer prior to the step of transmitting variable data from the main computer to the remote computer.

56. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of transmitting a map from the main computer to the remote computer along with the variable data to permit the remote computer to perform the integrating step.

57. (new)   The method of claim 47, wherein the constant data updating step includes the steps of:

determining updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer that are different than the constant data stored in the remote computer;

transmitting the updated portions of the constant data stored in the main computer from the main computer to the remote computer; and

replacing portions of the constant data stored on the remote computer with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer.

58. (new)   The method of claim 57, wherein the constant data updating step further includes the step of transmitting a new remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

59. (new)   The method of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

storing a program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer;

maintaining the latest revisions of the program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the main computer;

transmitting the remote program revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;

comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status; and

updating portions of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer that are different from the program stored and maintained in the memory of the main computer.

60. (new)   The method of claim 59, wherein the program updating step includes the steps of:

determining updated portions of the program stored in the main computer that are different from the program stored in the remote computer;

transmitting the updated portions from the main computer to the remote computer; and

replacing the portions of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer with the updated portions received from the main computer.

61. (new)   The method of claim 59, wherein the remote program revision status is transmitted to the main computer each time a communication session is initiated between the remote computer and the main computer.

62. (new)   An electronic catalog system comprising:

a main computer including a main memory for storing variable data, constant data and a main revision status related to at least one product, the main revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the main memory;

a remote computer including a remote memory for storing constant data and a remote revision status related to the at least one product, the constant data being a subset of information data related to the at least one product, the remote revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the remote memory;

means for transmitting the remote revision status from the remote computer to the main computer;

means for comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status;

means for selecting portions of the constant data stored in the main memory that are different from the constant data stored in the remote memory;

means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer;

means for replacing portions of the constant data stored in the remote memory with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer;

means for transmitting variable data related to a selected product stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer; and

means for integrating constant data related to the selected product stored in the remote memory with the variable data related to the selected product received from the main computer to generate said information data related to the selected product including both constant data and variable data.

63. (new)   The system of claim 62, further comprising means for generating a map at the main computer and means for transmitting the map from the main computer to the

remote computer along with the variable data to permit the integrating means to generate information related to the selected product including both constant data and variable data.

64. (new)   The system of claim 62, wherein the means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer also transmits an updated remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

65. (new)   The system of claim 62, further comprising means for storing a program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer, means for maintaining the latest revisions of the program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the program stored in the memory of the main computer, means for transmitting the remote program revision status from the remote computer to the main computer, means for comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status, and means for determining updated portions of the program stored in the main computer that are different from the program stored in the remote computer, means for transmitting the updated portions from the main computer to the remote computer, and means for replacing portions of the program stored in the memory of the remote computer with the updated portions received from the main computer.

66. (new)   The system of claim 62, wherein the means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer also transmits an updated remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

67. (new)   An electronic catalog system comprising:

a main computer including a main memory for storing variable data and constant data related a plurality of products;

a remote computer including a remote memory for storing constant data related to a plurality of products, the constant data being a subset of product information data related to the plurality of products;

means for transmitting a request for variable data related to a selected product from the remote computer to the main computer;

means for comparing constant data in the remote memory with constant data in the main memory;

means for determining which portions of the constant data stored in the main memory are different from the constant data stored in the remote memory;

means for transmitting updated portions of the constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer;

means for replacing portions of the constant data stored in the remote memory with the updated portions of constant data received from the main computer;

means for transmitting variable data related to the selected product stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer; and

means for integrating constant data related to the selected product stored in the remote memory with the variable data related to the selected product received from the main computer to generate the product information data related to the selected product including both constant data and variable data.

68. (new)   The system of claim 67, further comprising means for automatically connecting the remote computer to the main computer.

69. (new)   The system of claim 68, further comprising means for automatically disconnecting the remote computer from the main computer after the variable data related to the selected product is transmitted from the main computer to the remote computer.

70. (new)   The system of claim 67, further comprising means for storing and maintaining a main revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the main computer, and means for storing a remote revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote revision status indicating the revision level of the constant data stored in the remote computer.

71. (new)   The system of claim 70, wherein the means for comparing constant data in the remote memory with constant data in the main memory compares the remote revision status with the main revision status maintained in the main computer.

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